

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

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UNCLAS NEW DELHI 4867

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR IN US

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER ON INDO- US RELATIONS

FOLLOWING IS TRANSCRIPT OF FOREIGN MINISTER' S COMMENTS ON INDO-
US RELATIONS WHILE WINDING UP PARLIAMENTARY FOREIGN AFFAIRS DEBATE
APRIL 24:

..." MENTION WAS MADE OF OUR RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES.
NOW, THIS IS A SUBJECT ON WHICH ONE CAN SAY A GREAT DEAL AND SOME
HONORABLE MEMBERS HAVE SPOKEN WITH A GREAT DEAL OF FEELING AND
EMOTION ON THIS SUBJECT. WE OURSELVES IN THE HOUSE DISCUSSED
THIS QUESTION SOME TIME BACK PARTICULARLY IN RELATION TO THE
DECISION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO
SUPPLY ARMS TO PAKISTAN. WE EXPRESSED IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS
OUR TOTAL OPPOSITION TO THAT POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES. OUR
RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES WHICH HAD BEEN AT A VERY LOW
EBB DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS SHOWED SIGNS OF IMPROVEMENT TO-
WARDS THE END OF LAST YEAR. THERE WERE EXPRESSIONS OF DESIRE
FROM BOTH SIDES TO NORMALIZE AND STRENGTHEN THESE RELATIONS.
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ON NOVEMBER 30, 1972, I STATED THAT WE WERE PREPARED TO DEVELOP OUR RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES ON THE BASIS OF EQUALITY, RECIPROCITY, MUTUAL INTEREST AND IN THE LIGHT OF THE NEW REALITIES OBTAINING IN THE SUBCONTINENT. THERE HAD BEEN SIMILAR EXPRESSIONS OF A DESIRE FOR A BETTER RELATION ON THE PART OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. IT HAS BEEN THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TO DEVELOP FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

" A PRINCIPAL OBSTACLE IN THE INDO- US RELATIONS HAS BEEN THE AMERICAN SUPPLY OF ARMS TO PAKISTAN. THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA HAD HOPED THAT THIS POLICY WOULD COME TO AN END AND THUS PAVE THE WAY FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DURABLE PEACE IN THE SUBCONTINENT.

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT'S RECENT DECISION TO LIFT THE EMBARGO ON THE SUPPLY OF ARMS TO PAKISTAN HAS CAUSED US MUCH DISAPPOINTMENT AND CONCERN. THIS CONCERN HAS BEEN WIDELY SHARED BY PARLIAMENT AND PUBLIC OPINION. WE HAVE CONVEYED OUR STRONG FEELINGS TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND IT IS OUR CONVICTION THAT THE SUPPLY OF ARMS BY THE UNITED STATES TO PAKISTAN WILL SERIOUSLY IMPEDE THE NORMALIZATION OF INDO- PAK RELATIONS AND JEOPARDISE THE PROSPECTS OF A DURABLE PEACE IN THE INDIAN SUBCONTINENT. IT MAY ALSO POSE A SERIOUS THREAT TO INDIA'S SECURITY.

" DURING THE RECENT VISITS OF MR. KENNETH RUSH AND MR. JOSEPH SISCO I AGAIN TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY OF POINTING OUT TO THEM THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE SUPPLY OF US ARMS TO PAKISTAN. I DO HOPE THAT THE US GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE NOTE OF OUR SERIOUS CONCERN AND HELP IN THE PROCESS OF A DETENTE AND RECONCILIATION AND PEACEFUL COOPERATION IN THE SUBCONTINENT."

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